



# Department of Justice

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**EATONVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON  
FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM AND AMMUNITION BY A CONVICTED FELON**

Orlando, Florida - Chief United States District Judge Anne C. Conway today sentenced LeShane McKnight, age 33, of Eatonville, to a term of imprisonment of 15 years on a single charge of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. McKnight pleaded guilty to the charge on November 5, 2008.

According to court documents, McKnight had been arrested by members of the Orange County Sheriff's Office during the raid of a suspected drug house on November 1, 2007. McKnight was sitting in a car in the driveway of the house at the time. He was approached by deputies and removed from the automobile. A search of McKnight revealed a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic firearm in his waistband. In addition, an ammunition clip, drug paraphernalia, small quantities of marijuana and cocaine were found in the automobile. A trace of the firearm revealed that it had been reported stolen in the 2004 burglary of a gun dealer. McKnight subsequently admitted to the deputies that he had obtained the firearm in 2004 for his protection. As a previously convicted felon, McKnight is prohibited from possessing either firearms or ammunition under federal law. Moreover, McKnight's extensive criminal record qualified him as an Armed Career Criminal under federal sentencing statutes.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative supported by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton, along with Virginia O’Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Tampa Field Division, is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders.

The case was jointly investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.